

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 12, 19 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 16-18 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 8, 10-11, and 13-15 remain unchanged

The Examiner objected to the drawings in that "the element 52 in the drawing...not mentioned in the description" This objection is overcome by adding at the second line of page 4 --of a screen 52--.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite, citing that the phrase "wherein said flexible surface is air" is indefinite. The claim has been amended to be an independent claim and the word "air" has been replaced by --formed by tips of said rods--. It is believed that the amended claim is no longer indefinite.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Gates. Claim 1-3, 5-6, 16-17 and 20 have been canceled. The Examiner cited that Gates disclosed in column 5, lines 48-54 that "said flexible surface (32) is sucked against said tips". An examination of Gates patent does not reveal such a disclosure, and nowhere did Gates quote the use of suction or gravity. Nor did Gates suggest air as the flexible surface. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection claims 7, 18 and 19 be withdrawn. Since claims 7 and 19 were originally dependent on a canceled claim 1, claims 7 and 19 have been rewritten as independent claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gates. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claim 21 was dependent on a canceled claim 20, which depends on another canceled claim 1. By rewriting claim 21 as an independent claim, it is believed that claim 21 is no longer unpatentable.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend on claim 9, [because it depended] and is no longer dependent on a canceled claim 3.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 7-15, 18-19 and 21, as amended, be allowed. Reexamination of the objections and rejections is requested. It is believed that each amended claim is no longer "not provided with a proper status identifier". Allowance of claims 7-15, 18-19 and 21 at an early date is solicited.

A check of \$43 was paid previously for one excess independent claim.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Issue Fee address above on the date indicated below.

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